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UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

DR. K. G. MATHESON, president of the Georgia School of Technology, announces that the sum of \$1,222,857 has been contributed toward the fund of \$5,000,000 which the institution has undertaken to raise for permanent buildings and equipment.

DR. WADE H. FROST, former surgeon in the United States Public Health Service, has been appointed head of the department of epidemiology and public health administration in the School of Hygiene and Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HARDEE CHAMBLISS, since 1919 commanding officer of the U. S. nitrate plant at Sheffield, Ala., has been appointed to take charge of the work of the department of chemistry at the Catholic University owing to the prolonged illness of the Reverend Dr. John J. Griffin, who has been in charge of the department since its opening in 1895.

DR. ROBERT H. LOWIE is leaving the American Museum of Natural History, where he has been associate curator in the department of anthropology, to accept the position of associate professor of anthropology at the University of California.

DR. BERTRAM G. SMITH, of the Michigan State Normal College, has been appointed associate professor of anatomy, in charge of embryology and histology, in the New York University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

DR. CHESTER A. MATHEWSON, for seven years head of the department of science in the Maxwell Training School for Teachers, Brooklyn, N. Y., has been appointed head of the department of biology in the School of Education at Cleveland, Ohio.

IN the Oregon Agricultural College, H. H. Gibson, professor of vocational agriculture in the University of Arizona, has accepted the headship of the department of agricultural education. He was formerly director of agricultural education in the University of Ver-

mont. John R. Du Priest, professor of steam and gas engineering and design in the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N. Y., has been appointed assistant professor of mechanical engineering.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A DEFENSE OF PROFESSOR NEWCOMB'S LOGIC

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: To those acquainted with Professor Simon Newcomb's mental habits and with Professor Comstock's usual precision of language, the latter's criticism of Newcomb's statement concerning ultra-mundane life is puzzling (SCIENCE, July 8, 1921). After several readings I venture the opinion that he appears to impugn the logic which he seems to think Newcomb might have used in coming to the conclusion that "to suppose" countless worlds are inhabited "is perfectly reasonable." Is there a chance that Professor Comstock may be the victim of his own false premise, contained in the sentence with which he starts upon this phase of the subject: "As to the numerous worlds alleged (*sic*) to be the abode of life, Newcomb in his essay . . . " says so and so. If we may trust the dictionaries, *to allege* is to make a positive assertion, or a statement which the allegor is under obligations to prove; whereas *to suppose* is to "conceive a state of things . . . , but not free from doubt" (*Century Dictionary*). So far as my search has gone, Newcomb has not at any time alleged or asserted the existence of animal life in other worlds; he has merely supposed, and said that such supposition "is perfectly reasonable." A reading of his admirable essay on the subject ("Life in the universe," in "Side-Lights on Astronomy," 1906) should, in my opinion, convince of the reasonableness.

W. W. CAMPBELL
MOUNT HAMILTON, CALIFORNIA,
July 16, 1921

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Control of destructive insects by the introduction of their